

**Listing of Claims:**

The claims as presented for examination in this application are as follows:

Claims 1 through 27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A cross-arm for a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission, the cross-arm capable of being fastened to a utility pole and being operable transverse the utility pole as horizontal support for aerial conductors in an electrical distribution system~~and, the cross-arm~~ being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating capable of insulating the cross-arm from the electrical distribution system.
29. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the coating has a dielectric strength of greater than 10kV/mm.
30. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the cross-arm is formed as a hollow steel section.
31. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a polymeric material.
32. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the coating is applied by an electrolytic powder coating process, using a powder of the polymeric material.
33. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is nylon.
34. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is thermoplastic.
35. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is an epoxy.

36. (Currently Amended) A cross-arm assembly comprising:
- ~~a cross-arm, said cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory material~~ the cross-arm capable of being fastened to a utility pole and being operable transverse the utility pole as horizontal support for aerial conductors in an electrical distribution system, the cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating capable of insulating the cross-arm from the electrical distribution system, and
- a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to a utility pole.
37. (Previously presented) A cross-arm according to claim 36, wherein the coating has a dielectric strength of greater than 10kV/mm.
38. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, wherein the fastening system comprises clamping means that is securable to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross-arm so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.
39. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, wherein the fastening system includes a seat which locates under the cross-arm and which is securable to the utility pole.
40. (Currently Amended) A cross-arm assembly according to claim ~~36~~39, wherein the seat is formed from a metal section coated with an electrically insulatory coating.
41. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, further comprising an extension arm which extends upwardly from the cross-arm.
42. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 41, wherein the extension arm is metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating.
43. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 41, wherein the extension arm is formed as a hollow section and incorporates a coupling at its upper end

operative to receive an electricity distribution wire and a second coupling at its lower end which is operative to be connected to the cross-arm.

44. (Previously presented) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, further comprising an electrically insulating medium which locates between the pole and the cross-arm so as to provide an insulation barrier between the pole and cross-arm.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A utility pole assembly comprising:

a utility pole, and

a cross-arm assembly, said cross-arm assembly having:

a cross-arm, the cross-arm capable of being fastened to a utility pole and being operable transverse the utility pole as horizontal support for aerial conductors in an electrical distribution system, the cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating capable of insulating the cross-arm from the electrical distribution system, further comprising a metallic cross-arm being operable transverse a utility pole as horizontal support for an electrical distribution system and coated with an electrically insulatory coating, and

a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to said utility pole.

54. (Previously presented) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, wherein the utility pole is made from steel.
55. (Previously presented) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, further comprising an insulating medium located between the pole and cross-arm so as to provide an electrically insulating barrier between the pole and cross-arm.
56. (Previously presented) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, wherein the fastening system for fastening the cross-arm to the utility pole comprises clamping means secured to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross-arm so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.
57. (Currently Amended) A method of securing a cross-arm to a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission wherein metallic clamping means coated with an electrically insulatory coating are arranged to clamp the cross-arm to the utility pole, the method comprising:

assembling a ~~the~~ cross-arm capable of being fastened to a utility pole and being operable transverse the utility pole as horizontal support for aerial conductors in an electrical distribution system, ~~and~~ the cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating capable of insulating the cross-arm from the electrical distribution system;

locating the clamping means over one of the cross-arm or the utility pole; and

securing the clamping means to the other of said cross-arm or utility pole whereby on securing the clamping means, the clamping means clamps the one of the cross-arm or the utility pole to the other of said cross-arm or utility pole to which it is secured.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57, further comprising:  
  
fastening the clamping means to one of the cross-arms or the utility pole.
59. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57, further comprising:  
  
providing an electrically insulating medium; and  
  
locating the electrically insulating medium between the pole and the cross-arm to provide  
an electrically insulating barrier between the pole and the cross-arm.